

# CHINA MAIL.

ESTABLISHED FOR OVER 100 YEARS

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Friday, September 14th, 1945.

Price 10 cts.

## THE HONG KONG DOLLAR RESTORED Jap. Military Yen Ceases Immediately To Be Legal Tender

### TO-DAY'S PAPER GRATIS

TODAY'S ISSUE OF THE "CHINA MAIL" IS ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC GRATIS — IN THE ABSENCE OF MONEY HAVING LEGAL TENDER VALUE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION.

THE OCCASION IS PROBABLY UNIQUE IN LOCAL HISTORY

### Price of Rice Fixed At 20 Cents a Catty

THE NEW HONG KONG CURRENCY, FIXED AT AN EXCHANGE RATE: ONE HONG KONG DOLLAR EQUALS ONE SHILLING AND THREEPENCE, IS TO BE PLACED INTO CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT THE COLONY THIS MORNING.

IT REPLACES THE JAPANESE MILITARY YEN, WHICH CEASES TO BE LEGAL TENDER.

ALTHOUGH IN THE GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY WHICH PROCLAIMS THE NEW CURRENCY THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO JAPANESE MILITARY YEN, THE BROAD INFERENCE IS CLEAR THAT THE MILITARY YEN IS TODAY WORTHLESS AND WITHOUT EXCHANGE VALUE. THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IS THE ONLY LEGAL TENDER.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE PRICE OF RICE THROUGHOUT THE COLONY HAS BEEN FIXED AT THE RATE OF 20 H.K. CENTS A CATTY.

### American Arrested In Tokyo

MARK LEWIS STREETER, OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, WHO WAS ARRESTED IN YOKOHAMA YESTERDAY, IS THE ONLY AMERICAN APPEARING ON GENERAL MACARTHUR'S LIST OF WAR CRIMINALS.

He stated: "I was playing a very dangerous game, and there was no turning back, or I would have lost my head."

"My real purpose was to assure American war efforts, and to aid prisoners of war as much as possible."

Streeter was a civilian employee captured at Wake Island, and thus explained his reasons for writing broadcasting for Radio Tokyo for almost two years.—Wireless.

### ITALIAN PEACE TREATY

Hammering out the terms of the peace treaty with Italy is the main problem which will occupy the Foreign Ministers of the five great Powers who were meeting last night in Council at Lancaster House, London.

Early on the agenda is expected to be a decision as to whether the Italian delegation is to be invited to take part in the discussions, or whether presentation of the Italian case is to lie wholly in the hands of Count Nicholas Cardini, Italy's political representative in London.—Wireless.

### CHINA AND PUPPET MONEY

A CHUNGKING GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STATES THAT PUPPET CURRENCY IN CHINA WILL BE REDEEMED IN CHINESE CURRENCY AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS SENT SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF ITS NOTES TO LIBERATED AREAS.

He added: "We will fix the rate at which to absorb the puppet currency from our people."

Once the puppet notes are collected, the Japanese government will be held responsible and asked to produce the backing for the currency issued by China.—Wireless.

### A.P.C. CHANGES NAME

The Asiatic Petroleum Company (South China), Ltd., has been renamed The Shell Company of China, Ltd.

This name had long been contemplated and the war-break provided the opportunity. Formerly third largest North China and South China Company, of the A.P.C. of then will now be called The Shell Company of China, Ltd.

### How To Get Money

In order to enable the public to be put in funds in respect of the new currency, several steps have been taken by Government as follows:

PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH THE BANK (WHETHER THEY HAVE FUNDS IN THEIR ACCOUNT OR NOT) MAY APPROACH THAT BANK FOR AN ADVANCE OF \$200 (TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS).

Employers of labour may obtain from their bank sufficient currency to cover the wages of their employees for ten days. Employers of labour at present working for Government Departments or public utilities should obtain from the head of the department or utility concerned a certificate covering the amount required.

GOVERNMENT STRONGLY URGES ALL EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR TO GET MONEY FROM THE BANKS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND TO PAY THEIR EMPLOYEES IMMEDIATELY.

GOVERNMENT'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS TO GET AS MUCH OF THE NEW CURRENCY INTO CIRCULATION AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

It is intimated that Government will guarantee the banks in the steps necessary to speed the new currency into circulation.

Important fact also announced is that all notes issued by the three note-issuing banks of the Colony before the war are still legal tender and interchangeable with the new notes. Holders can, therefore, bring out their H.K. notes to-day.

But, the Japanese during the war forcibly compelled the signing of notes by officers of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and possibly of the other issuing banks. The numbers of those notes are known and none of them has any validity. Government, however, has limited its inhibition to notes of the denominations \$50, \$100 and \$500. Notes of these values are not repudiated, but are held in suspense pending closer investigation as to how and for what purpose they have been used.

It is clear, however, that all Hong Kong notes of the pre-war issue of \$10 and below will be treated as legal tender to any amount, and rank equally with the new notes.

CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF THESE NOTES HAVE ARRIVED FROM ENGLAND, AND IN ADDITION CERTAIN BANKNOTES ALREADY IN EXISTENCE IN THE COLONY HAVE BEEN OVERPRINTED. THERE IS A C.R.B. YUAN 1,000 NOTE OVERPRINTED FOR USE AS A H.K.\$5 NOTE, AND A C.R.B. YUAN 5,000 NOTE OVERPRINTED TO GIVE IT A VALUE OF H.K.\$10.

Obviously there has been no attempt to equate values, and the overprinting it is emphasised, has no meaning whatever in regard to any exchange values. The notes are intended only for temporary circulation and will be withdrawn and replaced as soon as sufficient newly printed notes have arrived in the Colony.

It was officially stated last night, further, that instructions had been lodged to Government Departments, and Controllers of Essential Services, including private enterprises, like the Tramways, which are at present virtually running for the Government, as follows:

"In order to facilitate the rapid circulation of the new currency you are requested to draw early With the defeat and surrender

### FREE FERRIES

It was intimated at a press conference last night that in consequence of the Proclamation which terminates the legal tender value of the Military Yen, all ferry services may be expected to be free to-day.

of the Japanese the yen currency introduced by them while in temporary occupation of Hong Kong is replaced by the old Hong Kong dollar currency.

All notes of that currency which were legal tender on 25th December, 1941, are again legal tender to-day.

The value of the Hong Kong Dollar is to-day as it was on 25th December, 1941, 1s. 3d.

New issues of Hong Kong currency will be made as required and these will rank equally with the old Hong Kong notes and will be in all respects interchangeable with them.

During the period 1941 to 1945 the Japanese issued certain Hong Kong dollar notes of various denominations. To prevent undue hardship, all such notes, up to and including the value of \$10, which have been in circulation will be accepted as legal tender.

MAY REGISTER

Pending further investigation into the circumstances of issue, however, Hong Kong dollar notes issued by the Japanese of denominations higher than \$10, the numbers of which are specified in the Proclamation, will not be accepted as legal tender. Facilities will, however, be given to the present holders of such

notes to register them at a later date, should they so desire, with competent authorities.

Many of the original Hong Kong notes of all denominations in circulation prior to 1941 have been lost or destroyed during the war and to replace these and supply adequate currency for the reconstruction of the Colony new notes have been printed in London and are being shipped from England.

OVER-PRINTS

Some have already arrived, but to meet temporary requirements in any denomination in which the supply of notes is short, the administration is overprinting M.Y. 1,000 notes to make them valid for use as Hong Kong \$1 notes, and 1,000 Yuan notes of the Central Reserve Bank of China have similarly been overprinted to make them valid for use.

Notes of these denominations bearing serial numbers other than those specified above, are legal tender for immediate use and acceptance.

The official statement reads:—

(Continued on Page 2)

### SUGIYAMA TAKES LIFE

FIELD MARSHAL SUGIYAMA, THE JOINT HEAD OF THE SUPREME COMMAND OF THE JAPANESE ARMY, AND FORMER MINISTER OF WAR, HAS COMMITTED SUICIDE. —WIRELESS.

### JAP PEACE LEADERS DISCLOSURE

FRANK BARTHOLOMEW, UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO, REPORTS THAT FIVE PROMINENT JAPANESE WERE ARRESTED BY SECRET POLICE IN TOKYO BEFORE JAPAN'S SURRENDER.

Shigeru Yoshida, former Ambassador to Great Britain, was imprisoned as ring-leader, and charged with inaugurating a peace movement through British channels.

Others, who were held under guard in their own homes, were: Majoris Moritazu Hosokawa and Count Kobayashi, both former friends of the United States Ambassador, Mr. Joseph Grew, and charged with attempting to get into contact with him.

Arrested too, were Baron Kumao Harada, secretary to Prince Saionji, who is advisor to the Throne, and Seikichi Kimijima, former provincial governor.

The group held five meetings, and launched peace contacts directed towards British ministers, after which they addressed resolutions to Prince Konoye.—Wireless.

### Yamamoto Secret Revealed

American code experts deciphered the Japanese radio military messages which made possible the daring air ambush which brought sudden and fiery death to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who once boasted that he would dictate peace in the White House, 16 months after the Pearl Harbour attack.

Yamamoto's plane was ambushed and destroyed as it was preparing to land either at Balalai Island or on one of the nearby Shorthand Islands in the Northern Solomons.

The manner of Yamamoto's death now disclosed in Washington, has been one of the most closely guarded secrets of the Pacific war.—Wireless.

### BRITAIN STANDS FIRM

RELIEF STORES FOR THE PRISONER-OF-WAR RECOVERY UNIT ARRIVED IN THE COLONY BY H.M.S. VINDEX AND ARE NOW AWAITING DISTRIBUTION.

Included in the stores are contributions from the Australian Red Cross.

There are clothing sets for men, women and children, standard parcels for the same three categories, shaving requisites for men, cosmetics for women and kiddies' essentials for the children. The supplies include toilet articles, towels and cigarettes, but no food-stuffs. All food has been placed in the common pool and is being used daily at the various catering centres.

The suppliers are being handed over to three groups: 1. The 900 odd internees at Stanley, who will be issued first; 2. Essential Services, which will be handled by the Civil Administration, and 3. Dependents in Hong Kong, who will register with the Essential Services and will be informed later as to time and place for collection.

### NOT SUFFICIENT

It is not possible, to say when the goods will be delivered as everything depends on the numbers involved and the quantity which is available for distribution. It is certain, however, that there are insufficient stores at the moment to include all in the three groups.

Those who left by Empress of Australia received their clothing sets and parcels and endeavours will be made to give first consideration to those registered for the next evacuation, which is expected to effect 100 women and 50 men bound for Australia.

Others not included in the three groups will be given aid at a later date.

### CABLES OPEN TODAY

Telegraphic communication with the outside world has been established, but so far it has necessarily been limited to official communication and the free telegrams granted by Cable & Wireless, Ltd., to prisoners-of-war and internees.

The reason that these two services to foreign countries are not yet open to the public is that they are bound by International Conventions, and it is impossible to undertake this service without making payment.

Up to the present there has been no means of making payment for these services in the Colony, but as soon as the new local currency is circulated, postal and telegraphic services to the outside world will be thrown open to the public.

### BILL O'NEILL ON WAY

Mr. W. A. "Bill" O'Neill, of Reuters, was reported in yesterday's "Shanghai Times" as bidding good-bye to his friends in Shanghai prior to leaving for Hong Kong to re-open his office here.

Mr. O'Neill left Stanley Internment Camp for Shanghai in May, 1942, and was interned there until Japan's surrender.

THE  
CHINA MAIL  
Registered Office:  
Windsor House (1st floor)  
Des Voeux Road, C.  
Hong Kong  
Telephone: 02012 & 24054  
Editor: W. J. Keates, Esq.

## SHANGHAI PRICES

The Shanghai Times, only English-language paper yet operating in the northern metropolis, was being sold yesterday morning at 1,000 F.R.B. puppet notes per copy. A bottle of beer in Shanghai costs 20,000 F.R.B. and a bottle of whisky 60,000.

Indian rupees, brought over by R.A.F. officers from India, are being quoted at 120 Chinese National Yuan or 80,000 F.R.B. A U.S. dollar costs 90,000 F.R.B.

## NEW CURRENCY

For several hours to-day, the Colony is likely to be without appreciable quantities of legal tender currency. Notes issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the Mercantile Bank and the Chartered Bank before the war will doubtless come quickly out of hoarding. But it will be some hours before the new currency, issued within the terms of Proclamation No. 5 of 1945, begins to find its way into free circulation. Probably 48 hours will elapse before the Colony's financial heads can breathe easily in assurance that the worst of the battle is over. Hundreds of people today find themselves left with valueless Military Yen on their hands. Prices will have to be adjusted to the new currency. Obviously there will be a period of upset, considerable difficulty, and some hardship. A responsibility is placed upon all, Chinese and foreign, who are in a position to obtain funds from the banks and with them pay their Chinese employees for past or future services, to do so with a minimum of delay. A responsibility likewise is placed upon all sections of the community to recognise that despite the turmoil of the transition, the situation demands the exercise of reason and restraint. To a few, the introduction of the new currency—and the elimination of the Military Yen—will cause temporary injury and anxiety. But Government has made its statesmanlike contribution in fixing the price of rice at 20 cents a catty. More than any other factor, this should calm fears and bring realisation that a new era is dawning, with brighter days ahead. The wild price fluctuations of the past are over and done with. Here is a sound and stable currency with the same value next year as it has to-day and to-morrow. Even those who lose out to-day in military yen, will, if they pause to think consider that for stability and security, it is a small price to pay.

## WANTED

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## NOTICE.

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## POLICE NOTICE

Members of the public are requested to report, without delay, at the nearest Police Station, the presence of any Japanese, Formosan or Korean still remaining at large in the Island or in Kowloon.

(Sd.) G. H. SAMSON (Police)  
Colonel D.D.C.A.  
Commissioner of Police

## POSITION WANTED

Public School man, aged 46 had 22 years business experience in Hong Kong and South China outports, also acted as Company Secretary for several years, and able to speak Cantonese, seeks executive position of responsibility. Medically fit and prepared to stay in Hong Kong in order to revive business until last evaluation when essential take leave to ensure fitness for future. Reason for wishing change of position due desire to better future prospects. Write "Secretary", c/o "The China Mail".

## PHOTOS FROM CAMPS

ON DISPLAY AT

**FRANCIS WU'S**  
STUDIO

18A, GLOUCESTER ARCADE

EAT AT  
**JIMMY'S**  
TO-DAY

## Mercy Ship Back From Hainan; A Grim Story

H.M.S. QUEENBOROUGH (Comdr. P. L. SAUMAREZ) COMPLETED A MISSION OF MERCY YESTERDAY WHEN SHE RETURNED TO HONG KONG FROM HAINAN ISLAND WITH 90 MEN WHO HAD BEEN PRISONERS OF WAR ON HAINAN ISLAND.

THE PARTY WAS MADE UP OF 30 AUSTRALIANS, 30 DUTCH AND 30 INDIANS AND, ALTHOUGH THE MEN STILL SHOWED VISIBLE SIGNS OF THE HARSHSHIPS THEY HAD SUFFERED, THEY WERE NEVERTHELESS IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS.

The destroyer arrived in harbour in the afternoon and arrangements were immediately completed for the prisoners to be taken to different camps on the mainland, a special ferry launch going alongside the warship to take off the party, who gave three hearty cheers for Comdr. Saumarez, officers and men of the Queenborough as the ferry launch drew away from the destroyer.

Senior officer of the party was Lt.-Col. W. J. R. Scott, Officer Commanding Australian Forces at Ampon, and in an interview with the "China Mail" he stressed that conditions in the camp on Hainan Island were so deplorable that he felt if they had to stay there for another two months not one of them would have survived the ordeal.

NOT ENOUGH FOOD

The food was insufficient—each man being allowed only six-and-a-half ounces of rice a day—while there were no medicines or drugs at all for those who fell ill, and there were quite a number suffering from dysentery beri-beri, malnutrition and malaria.

Col. Scott said that they were captured at Ampon. In the Molucca Passage on February 2, 1942, after four days of bitter fighting. There were altogether 263 of them, all ranks.

When they were interned in Ampon the food at first consisted of rice with a little fish or pumpkin. Conditions in the camp were very bad, the men being often knocked about, and as a result of the beatings they received a number of Dutch prisoners died.

After about a month in the Ampon Camp, the Lt.-Colonel continued, they were transferred to Hainan Island, where the food consisted of rice, a little meat with green, weedy vegetables. The food steadily became worse and worse despite the fact that they had to do 12 to 14 hours of work every day, mostly on road building or other similar heavy labour.

In camp they were allowed little freedom. There was a barbed-wire fence, charged with electric current, some 5 ft. 6 ins. high and the place was very crowded. There was a complete absence of medical facilities and though the Australians had their own doctor amongst them, his work was hampered due to lack of instruments and medicines. Even cotton wool and bandages were entirely lacking, people with cuts and sores having to be content

STARVED OF NEWS

"They did not inform us that the war had ended, and the first indication we had of this was on August 25 when American planes flew over the camp. We knew for certain when the American parachute troops landed on the Island on August 28."

Lt.-Col. Scott said that in addition to the Australian and Dutch prisoners, there were some 300 Chinese, from Hong Kong, while an idea of what conditions were like may be obtained from the statement that out of 50,000 Chinese workers, who had been sent from Hong Kong to work in the iron ore mines, 45,000 had died.

In conclusion he said that those in the camp went mad with joy when news that Japan had capitulated was received.

"We will never forget two things," said Lt.-Col. Scott. "We will never forget the kindness of the team of four American officers and two other ranks who made the first parachute landings on the Island after the surrender and we will never forget the kindness of Comdr. Saumarez officers and ship's company, H.M.S. Queenborough, who looked after us in every way and gave us every comfort within their power."

H.M.S. Queenborough left Hong Kong on Tuesday, arrived at Hainan Island on Wednesday and returned to the Colony yesterday.

"Excuse me, I am still shaky

## PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Stocks of Petroleum Products, etc., other than those held by Government Departments and the recognised Essential Services Departments, must be declared and reported to the Deputy Fuel Controller (Oils) at Shell House (3rd floor) before 5 p.m. on September 20, 1945.

The Petroleum Products, etc., covered by this order, and the units in which they should be reported, are:

(a) Gasoline (Petrol), gallons: Kerosene, gallons: Lubricating Oil (all grades), gallons: Diesel Fuel (Light and Heavy including Solar Oil), Drums of 50 A.G.: Crude Petroleum Oil, Drums of 50 A.G.: Alcohol, gallons.

Particulars to be reported are—(1) Name of owner, (2) address, (3) location of stocks, (4) How acquired, if purchased giving date and source of purchase.

Failure to comply with this order will render such stocks liable to confiscation and the offender subject to penalties under the Defence Regulations.

J. B. HARRISON  
Deputy Controller (Oils),  
Fuel Control.

Hong Kong, September 13, 1945.

## FRANCO'S NEW MOVE

General Franco has sent an envoy to the Pretender to the throne of Spain, Don Juan, the young Basque monarchist, Jean Marie Ortiz, with instructions to request Don Juan to take over the Throne, while guaranteeing Franco's personal safety, and the preservation of his work. Wireless.

## Farewell Message To Stanley

ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR ENGLAND, HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THE HON. MR. F. C. GIBSON, C.M.G., SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO STANLEY INTERNEES YESTERDAY:

"I desire to inform you that I am proceeding to England at the desire of the Colonial Office to report, among other matters, on the administration of the Military Internment Camp, Hong Kong. When I arrive in England I shall be able to state to the British Government that in spite of the anxiety and adversity experienced in the Camp maintained a high standard of morale. I shall be able to pay tribute to the services which were freely offered for the benefit of the community and to the efficient manner in which these services were performed. I shall also make reference to the ingenuity and resourcefulness displayed by internees in adapting the scanty supplies of material to meet their needs. I am sure that no one would be surprised if I make special mention of the manner in which our health was safeguarded by the arduous devotion of the Doctors and Nurses in the Camp.

Leach said that they had been able, on a number of occasions, to contact the Chinese who were rather hesitant when approached to "show the way" so they decided. Sgt. Leach said, to break away from camp on April 16, 1945. They were lucky that they chose that day, he said, for there was a short length of the barbed wire fence that was not charged with electricity, and the very next day the whole fence was charged with 3,600 volts!

GO ROUND IN CIRCLES

It was midnight when they finally left Camp behind and a member of the party, who offered to lead them to safety, said he knew where they could contact the Chinese, adding that it was but half-an-hour's walk from Camp. Three hours after following this "guide's" directions, however, they found they were heading straight back for Camp!

They finally decided to take a rest after what seemed hours of walking, and when they woke up the next morning they found themselves but 200 yards from a Japanese fort! They learned later that a party of 76 Japanese soldiers had been sent out after them when news of their escape became known in the Camp.

The terrain was very difficult

and Leach, and "although it may

sound like a tall story, leeches began sticking to our legs faster

than we could take them off!"

Finally, said Sgt. Leach, they arrived at the Headquarters of a Chinese General and here they had their first taste of good food after a long time. They also had some saki, no doubt taken from the Japanese.

It was while they were at this

Headquarters that a Chinese soldier came in, waving a piece of paper and saying "All gentlemen, all gentlemen."

The paper they

found to be a message from the

Allied Command, offering rewards for the "safe return" of any Allied

prisoner of war.

SON OF TOKYO SIGNATORY

Lieut. L. W. van Oyen, of the regular Netherlands East Indies Army, was amongst the 30 Dutch prisoners of war.

It is interesting to note that he

is the son of Gen. L. van Oyen,

representative for the Netherlands

East Indies at the surrender cere

mony in Tokyo last week.

Captured at the time of the fall

of Ampon on Friday, 8, 1942, Lieut. van Oyen said he had not seen his father since 1941, and as far as he knew Gen. van Oyen is ignorant of the fact that he is alive and well.

COAL SUPPLIES

Mr. A. G. Langston, Controller of Electricity, writes "Not having yet received any advice regarding coal arrival, I cannot make any definite statement as to the probable date of resumption of supply."

## RADIO

FRIDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER, 1945.  
ZBW HONGKONG Broadcasting on Frequencies of 845 Kilocycles and 9.47 Megacycles.

19.30 p.m.—Russian Composers.

1.00 p.m.—News & Announcements.

1.10 p.m.—Variety.

1.30 p.m.—MANDARIN & CANTONESE PROGRAMMES.

2.00 p.m.—Close down.

6.00 p.m.—Variety with Gracie Fields.

7.00 p.m.—News & Announcements.

7.10 p.m.—Dance Music.

7.30 p.m.—MANDARIN & CANTONESE PROGRAMMES.

9.00 p.m.—News & Announcements in English.

9.10 p.m.—STUDIO—"Baba Bombo," A Talk on the VI.

9.30 p.m.—Variety with Ginger Rogers and Donald Dixon.

10.00 p.m.—London Relay-The News and Sightings from the News papers.

10.10 p.m.—Dance Music.

10.30 p.m.—Close down.

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